

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-07 PA-02 USIE-00 INRE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS: IPERNICK:MG

APPROVED BY S/PRS - ROBERT L. FUNSETH

S/S - WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 654

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 17, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 29

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF TODAY'S
BRIEFING:

1. AID TO CAMBODIA -- IN A PREPARED STATEMENT, THE ACTING
SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT A U.S. ARMY AUDIT HAS FOUND
AMMUNITION FOR CAMBODIA VALUED AT \$21.5 MILLION
REMAINING UNDELIVERED UNDER THE FY 1974 MAP PROGRAM.
ASKED WHAT EFFECT THIS FINDING MIGHT HAVE ON THE AID
REQUEST PENDING BEFORE CONGRESS, FUNSETH STATED THE
ADMINISTRATION STILL HOPES CONGRESS WILL PROVIDE THE AID
CAMBODIA NEEDS TO DEFEND ITSELF, AND THAT WE ARE
CONSULTING WITH CONGRESS ON THIS ISSUE NOW.

2. EVACUATION FROM PHNOM PENH -- RESPONDING TO PRESS
STORIES OUT OF PHNOM PENH, FUNSETH STATED WE DO NOT
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CONSIDER THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION WARRANTS EVACUATION

OF OUR PERSONNEL. WHILE DECLINING TO CONFIRMOTHER PRESS

ACCOUNTS REPORTING OFFICIAL RECORDS BEING BURNED AT THE EMBASSY, HE SAID IN THE KIND OF SITUATION WE ARE

CONFRONTED WITH IN CAMBODIA; IT IS NORMAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING TO TRY TO REDUCE THE QUANTITY OF RECORDS ON HAND. HE ESTIMATED ABOUT 200 OFFICIAL AND 200 PRIVATE AMERICANS WERE STILL IN PHNOM PENH.

3. AMMUNITION SALE TO ETHIOPIA -- FUNSETH ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE U.S. HAS INFORMED THE ETHIOPIAN PMG IT IS PREPARED TO SELL ETHIOPIA FOR CASH UP TO \$7 MILLION IN AMMUNITION. ON BACKGROUND, HE RESPONDED THE AMOUNT REQUESTED BY ETHIOPIA WAS MORE THAN \$7 MILLION. HE DECLINED TO PROVIDE OTHER DETAILS ON THIS OR ON THE

SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF PROGRESS WE HAVE NOTED TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THEPMG AND THE ELF/PLF.

4. VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT -- (THE NYTIMES REPORTED FROM THE SECRETARY'S PARTY THAT THE U.S. HAS PROPOSED TO THE SOVIETS A DRAFT TREATY ENCOMPASSING PROVISIONS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT.) FUNSETH REPONDED (TO QUESTION FROM REUTERS BUREAU CHIEF) THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THIS REPORT. QUESTIONER CRITICIZED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS PRACTICE OF GIVING SUCH INFORMATION ON THE PLANE WHILE NEWSMEN IN WASHINGTON ARE NOT ABLE TO GET IT.

5. WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM THAILAND -- UNTIL THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM IS APPROVED BY THE THAI PARLIAMENT, HE SAID IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT.

6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION -- REPLYING TO WPOST REPORTER MARDER, HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AT OUR PRESS BRIEFINGS, A TEMPORARY RECORD OF THESE RESPONSES WILL BE MADE AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FIVE WORKING DAYS. THE PERMANENT RECORD WILL NOT CONTAIN BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

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7. U.S.-CANADIAN ENERGY DISCUSSIONS -- A BACKGROUND BRIEFINGWAS TO BE HELD THIS AFTERNOON ON OVERALL ENERGY QUESTIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CANADA. JULIUS KATZ WILL REPRESENT THE U.S.; DEPUTY MINISTER SHOYAMA WILL REPRESENT CANADA.
ROBINSON

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